

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. The Ministry of Health is located in a new four-story building on either Ulice Stalinova or Ulice Korunni, Prague XII.¹ Almost the complete staff of the Ministry, which had been made up principally of persons 40 to 45 years old, has been replaced by persons from 22 to 30 years old. The change was gradual, beginning in 1947 and completed early in 1952.
2. Up to 1951 the Sick Fund was administered by the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement (ROH-Revoluční odborové hnutí), in which all workers and officials are automatically members. In 1951 a special authority (Zjednocení zdravotnictví) was formed and placed under control of the Ministry of Health. This authority controls all medical institutions in Czechoslovakia, including the Sick Fund. This authority began its functions early in 1952, since which time all doctors' prescriptions which are filled by any medical institution must bear the stamp of the new authority.
3. There is an acute shortage of doctors and auxiliary medical personnel in Czechoslovakia. Medical faculties were closed during the German occupation, doctors of German descent have been expelled, and almost all Jewish doctors have left the country. Eastern Slovakia has been hardest hit by the shortage. At Kralovský Chlumec (R49/E80), for example, there are but four or five doctors and no dentists for a population of approximately 40,000; while in the Presov (R49/E37) area, there are no dentists for a population of 70,000.
4. The shortage of medical personnel has caused the government to send many doctors engaged in private practice to isolated villages. As a result, almost all private practice has been liquidated, and doctors have been forced to join the Sick Fund or other governmental medical institutions. Only university professors and famous specialists are now permitted to practice freely. The government expects the shortage to be relieved late in 1955, when an additional one thousand doctors will be qualified.

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5. There is also an acute shortage of nurses and technicians. Many nurses in religious orders have been eliminated, except for a few in eastern Slovakia. Nurses may now qualify after a two months course, and stomatological technicians may qualify after five or six months, instead of the former one-year course. Several new training schools for nurses have been opened at suitable hospitals.
6. Medical schools, including the medical departments of the universities, were thoroughly reorganized in 1948 and 1949.
 - a. All students who had been forced to interrupt their studies because of the war had to complete them in 1949.
 - b. All students were offered free accommodations and an allowance of 1,500 Kcs. per month.
 - c. Students are admitted to the schools only upon recommendation of the Party.
 - d. Medical students must take intermediate state examinations at the end of the third year, and those who fail the examination are discharged. Formerly there were only final examinations to take, and these came at the end of five years.
 - e. "Socialist studies" have been added to both curricula and examinations.
 - f. A student representative of the Medical Students' Union (Spolek mediku), which is affiliated with the ROE, is present at examinations.
 - g. Students must attend all lectures given for their courses.
 - h. Military studies are an integral part of the curriculum for male and female students throughout the period of study.
 - i. Practical work begins after two years of study.
7. A campaign to establish special cadres for highly educated workers was begun in 1950. Capable workers from various industrial fields were sent to evening courses for secondary education, after which they would be admitted to the universities. Almost all these worker-students chose technical subjects, and the campaign was subsequently eliminated.
8. There are now eight medical schools in Czechoslovakia. Two of the four which date from before World War II are at Prague, the third is at Brno, and the fourth is at Bratislava. One of the four which have been established since World War II is at Pilsen and is affiliated with the Prague schools, the second is at Hradec Kralove and is also affiliated with the Prague schools, the third is at Olomouc and is affiliated with the Brno school, and the fourth is at Kosice and is affiliated with the Bratislava school.
9. In 1949 and 1950 special dental sections were established in all medical schools. Dental students study general medicine for two years and dentistry for two years. Approximately 80 dentists have qualified under this system at the Prague schools, and 15 to 20 have qualified at the other six schools.
10. The Prague medical school, whose central building is located on Ulice Katarynova, includes the following institutes:
 - a. Anatomy: located in the building of the former German University, with the anatomy section on the first and second floors, embryology on the second floor, and comparative anatomy on the third floor.
 - b. Chemistry: located in the building of the former German University, with sections for organic, inorganic, and bio-chemistry.
 - c. Pathology: two institutes, one directed by Professor Jedlicka on Ulice Nemocnice, and the other directed by Professor Sikl on Ulice Albertov.

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- d. Biopsy: located in the same building on Ulice Albertov as the Pathological Institute.
 - e. Forensic Medicine: directed by Professor Hajek and located in the same building on Ulice Albertov as the Pathological Institute. Professor Hajek was an important expert on the German mission which investigated the Katyn massacre in World War II.
 - f. Bacteriology: two institutes, one in the physical institute of the former German University, and the other near the Vinohradske hospital. A special entrance permit is required at the latter, where vaccines and sera are made. A large increase has been made recently in the staffs of both bacteriological institutes.
11. Within the area of the medical school and opposite the children's hospital are the physical and meteorological institutes of the department of natural sciences, which are also utilized to train meteorologists.
12. The Prague University hospitals, which have an over-all total of approximately 3,000 beds, are located in old buildings and in a former military hospital, all in the Karlovo Namesti district. The hospitals include the following units:
- a. Four wards for internal diseases: one in the former military hospital and three in the former Vseobecna hospital on Ulice Nemocnice. The first has 50 doctors and 150 to 200 beds, and is directed by Professor Charvat; the second has 30 to 35 doctors and 150 beds, and is directed by Professor Netousek; the third has 40 doctors and 150 beds, and is directed by Professor Pelnar.
 - b. A stomatological hospital; located at Ulice Katarynova 32. It has 27 doctors, six assistants, one lecturer, 40 auxiliary personnel, and 45 beds and is directed by Professors Kostecka and Mestla. The initial monthly salary of a doctor at this hospital is 4,300 Kcs. and is increased after two years to 5,600 Kcs. A large proportion of doctors at this hospital are hostile to the regime.
 - c. Three surgical wards: two in the former Vseobecna hospital and one behind the stomatological hospital. The first has 30 to 40 doctors and 150 beds, and is directed by Professor Divis; the second has 30 doctors and approximately 150 beds, and is directed by Professor Jirasek; and the third (orthopedic) has 40 doctors and 150 to 200 beds. Professor Jirasek is the best known surgeon in Czechoslovakia, but he is considered to be a "reactionary".
 - d. Three children's hospitals, all located near the stomatological hospital. The first has 50 doctors and approximately 500 beds; the second has 25 doctors and 150 beds, and is directed by Professor Brdlik; and the third has 25 doctors and 150 beds, and is directed by Professor Schweizer.
 - e. Two ophthalmic hospitals, one in the former Vseobecna hospital and the other in another building on Ulice Nemocnice. The first has 15 doctors and 50 beds, and is directed by Professor Kurz; and the second has 15 doctors and 40 to 50 beds, and is directed by Professor Kadlecki.
 - f. Two neurological hospitals, one on Ulice Lipova and the other on Ulice Katarynova. The first has eight to ten doctors and 50 to 60 beds, and is directed by Professors Henner and Hinek; and the second has 20 doctors and 150 beds, and is directed by Professor Henner. Professors Henner and Hinek attended ex-President Benes and, on Party instructions, published a bulletin after his death.
 - g. Two wards for skin and venereal diseases, both located in the former Vseobecna hospital. The first has 25 to 30 doctors and approximately 100 beds, and is directed by Professor Gavalovski; and the second has 25 to 30 doctors and 100 beds, and is directed by Professor Huebschman.

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- h. The X-ray hospital is in the former Vseobecna hospital, has eight to ten doctors and approximately 30 beds, and is directed by Professor Schuab.
 - i. The ear, nose, and throat ward is located in the same hospital as the X-ray clinic, has 15 to 20 doctors, and 40 to 50 beds, and is directed by Professor Presechtiel.
 - j. The psychiatric hospital is near the stomatological hospital, has 40 doctors and 250 to 300 beds, and is directed by Professor Nirlivecka.
 - k. The gynecological ward is in the former Vseobecna hospital, has 15 doctors and 40 to 50 beds, and is directed by Professor Klaus.
 - l. The maternity hospital has 50 to 60 doctors, four wards with more than 300 beds, and is directed by Professors Klaus, Trappel, Lukas, and Pros. Professor Lukas is the most distinguished of the four and spent six months in the USSR in 1951.
13. A new hospital for all medical services, with approximately 150 rooms, was opened in 1951 in the Karlovo Namesti district. A department of social medicine and the university dental clinic are in the same building.
 14. The central pharmacy and the central research laboratory for all Prague University hospitals are located on Ulice Nemocnice.
 15. The medical school at Kosice, with only 200 students, is the smallest in Czechoslovakia; however, all branches of medicine are represented. The hospital, which has approximately 1,000 beds, is located in the former government hospital (Statni nemocnice).
 16. Czechoslovakia has excellently organized blood banks. In 1950 and 1951 all doctors were given special training in this field and then served at a blood bank for some time. No plasmas are used in transfusions, only fresh blood.
 17. In 1949 and 1950 there occurred an epidemic of jaundice, a special type unknown up to that time in Czechoslovakia.
 18. The pharmaceutical industry since its nationalization has been centralized in the United Pharmaceutical Works (Spojeni Farmaceuticki Zavody Spofa) National Corporation. The production department of this large organization is located between the Bila Labut department store and the former Imperial Hotel on Ulice Na Porici in Prague. 25X1
 19. Since January 1952, anesthetic and dental drills have been imported from East Germany, although there exists some local production, of both of several preparations including sulfathiazole.
 20. [redacted] The principal locally-produced sulfa drug is Detrion, a mixture of several preparations including sulfathiazole. 25X1
 21. Although penicillin is the only locally-produced antibiotic, other antibiotics reach Czechoslovakia through private parcels to Czech residents from Western Europe and are available in sufficient quantities to the university hospitals. No antibiotics of Soviet or Satellite origin appear in Czechoslovakia.
 22. A penicillin factory near Prague² was equipped by UNRRA in 1948, but it did not begin to produce until late 1949. Crystalline penicillin for this factory was available in sufficient quantities in 1950 and 1951, at which time governmental restrictions went into effect.
 23. There is an acute shortage of cotton, wool, instruments, and vitamins, particularly vitamin C.

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24. Surgical scissors and other instruments of high grade steel are practically non-existent. A very few instruments remain from a consignment, [redacted] but these are sold at tremendously high prices.

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25. The two principal factories producing medical instruments are the factory of Sanitas, National Corporation, at Prague - Liben, to which the medical installations department of CKD - Sokolovo, National Corporation, is now attached, and the new factory at Povazska Bystrica (Q50/071).³

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a. The Sanitas factory is now using tin to make sterilizers and autoclaves and intends to use iron instead of copper to make transfer spoons and articulators. Production of articulators is planned to reach 50,000 annually. Dentists' chairs, complete with machinery, are produced for export only; in 1951, 2250 were sold to Poland [redacted]

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b. The factory at Povazska Bystrica makes dentists' fountains and basins. One hundred fountains and basins were sent to the dental clinic at Prague, but only 20 of them proved satisfactory for use. Glass fountains in use came from UNRRA stocks, since there is no local production of them.

26. Acrylate, required for dentures and formerly imported, is now produced by a factory near Brno.⁴ This same factory also makes autopolimers of satisfactory quality. A shortage of benzoin peroxide is causing some production difficulties. Production of acrylates is to be increased, and attempts will be made to use them as wood substitutes.

[redacted] Comments:

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1. The 1952 Prague telephone directory lists the Ministry of Health at Korunni, corner of Sobotecke, Prague XII.

2. The reference is to the penicillin factory in Roztoky near Prague.

3. [redacted] possibly a unit of the Vah Machinery Works (Povazske strojarne), National Corporation.

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